

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ARIZONA ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS TASK FORCE

**September 21, 2006  
8:30a.m., MST**

The Arizona English Language Learners (ELL) Task Force met in Room 417 of the Arizona Department of Education, 1535 W. Jefferson Street, Phoenix, Arizona. The Task Force meeting was convened by Dr. Karen Butterfield, Associate Superintendent for Academic Achievement, at 8:37 a.m. MST.

## **1. Welcoming remarks and introductions**

Present:

Mr. Jim DiCello  
Dr. Eugene Garcia  
Ms. Margaret Garcia Dugan  
Ms. Johanna Haver  
Mr. Alan Maguire  
Ms. Karen Merritt  
Ms. Anna Rosas

Absent:

Mr. Tom Tyree  
Dr. John Baracy

A quorum was present for the purpose of conducting business.

Dr. Karen Butterfield reviewed the agenda and invited the Task Force members to introduce themselves.

Ms. Irene Moreno, Deputy Associate Superintendent of English Acquisition Services (EAS), introduced the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) staff members who will be providing staff assistance to the ELL Task Force, as required by law. Ms. Moreno also informed Task Force members that ADE had requested Aha! Inc to provide facilitation services for the Task Force.

Arizona Department of Education Staff Members:

Dr. Karen Butterfield, Associate Superintendent for Academic Achievement  
Ms. Irene Moreno, Deputy Associate Superintendent of English Acquisition Services (EAS)  
Ms. Leanne Gilbert, EAS Director of Monitoring  
Ms. Kathi Montoya, EAS Director of Accountability  
Mr. Micky Gutier, EAS Education Program Specialist, ELL Data

Mr. Gerry Haskins, EAS Program Specialist  
Ms. Sharon Estrada, Administrative Assistant to Irene Moreno  
Ms. Marlene Johnston, Administrative Assistant to Karen Butterfield  
Aha! Inc.:  
Dr. Suzy Seibert, Principal  
Ms. Cindy Turner, Principal  
Ms. Judy Boyer, Subcontractor

## **2. Overview of SEI programs by Arizona Department of Education staff**

Ms. Irene Moreno presented a brief history of the development of Structured English Immersion (SEI) program models prior to the establishment of the ELL Task Force. Referring to an ADE memo dated August 12, 2005, Ms. Moreno explained that the first SEI program models were developed by English Acquisition Services staff members. In order to gather input from experts in the field, an SEI advisory council was formed. On June 15, 2005, the SEI Advisory Council met to review and develop SEI program models. Representatives from Isaac Elementary School District, Yuma Elementary School District, Tucson Unified School District, Payson Unified School District, and Agua Fria Union High School District served on the advisory council. Three draft SEI program models were developed. A second SEI Advisory Council meeting was held September 28, 2005 to review and finalize the SEI Program Models. Two additional representatives from Sunnyside Elementary School District and Gadsden Elementary School were invited to attend. As defined in A.R.S. §§15-751 through 15-755, an SEI Program framework was developed and approved by the SEI Advisory Council.

## **3. Identification and definition of SEI program components as presented in H.B. 2064, A.R.S. §§15-751 through 15-755, and in relevant State Board of Education Rules.**

Ms. Cindy Turner, Aha! Inc., reviewed and identified SEI program components as stated in HB 2064 (Laws 2006, Chapter 4) in Sections 15-751 through 15-755, Arizona Revised Statutes, and in relevant State Board of Education Rules.

Ms. Turner highlighted for discussion the four hour requirement of SEI instruction for first-year ELL students.

Dr. Eugene Garcia discussed the need for an understanding of what is meant by “research based.” Ms. Moreno stated that by examining successful SEI models and using a process to compare and identify common characteristics of successful SEI models, members of the ELL Task Force will be able to determine if a model is research based.

## **4. Election of ELL Task Force Chairman**

Dr. Karen Butterfield opened nominations for the ELL Task Force Chairman.

**Motion:** Ms. Johanna Haver nominated Mr. Alan Maguire.

Mr. Jim DiCello seconded the motion.

Dr. Eugene Garcia nominated Ms. Haver.

Ms. Haver declined.

Nominations were opened for discussion. There was no discussion.

Mr. Maguire was elected Chairman of the ELL Task Force by unanimous vote.

## **5. Review of ELL Task Force responsibilities and work schedule development**

Ms. Cindy Turner reviewed the ELL Task Force's responsibilities under HB 2064 (Laws 2006, Chapter 4). The primary responsibility of the ELL Task Force is to develop and approve SEI program models. Mr. Maguire initiated a discussion on the preferred process to accomplish this task. He emphasized the importance of building correct models. He urged the Task Force to take the time needed to build correct models. The Task Force decided that multiple SEI models should be developed to meet the State's diverse geographical and demographical characteristics.

## **6. Discussion and initial development of SEI program models**

Ms. Cindy Turner provided blank SEI program worksheets to begin the discussion of SEI program models. Using the worksheet as a guide, Ms. Turner asked Ms. Anna Rosas to provide information about the SEI program model used in Nogales Unified School District by her school district.

Ms. Rosas presented the SEI model used by Nogales Unified School District. She stated that ELL students receive three to four hours of intense English Language Development (ELD) instruction during the first year of the SEI program. If students do not acquire proficiency as determined by the State's English language proficiency test, they receive a second year of SEI instruction. During the second year in the program, ELL students receive one to two hours of ELD instruction. Ms. Margaret Garcia Dugan noted that because of federal law (No Child Left Behind), all teachers must be highly-qualified. Therefore, only English majors may teach English at the middle school or high school level. Ms. Karen Merritt stated that at Glendale High School, a task such as literary analysis, which is required of fluent/native English speaking students, is also required of ELL students.

Under the SEI Model worksheet category, "Exit Criteria", Task Force members discussed whether ELL students could be moved into mainstream classrooms through a non-exam assessment by instructors or whether they were required to be deemed proficient by the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA) before they could be reassigned to mainstream classrooms. Ms. Merritt stressed that not reassigning them during the school year

can hold them back in achievement. Ms. Garcia Dugan stated highly educated, literate students may require less than a year of SEI instruction to achieve English proficiency.

Dr. Eugene Garcia asked if other programs similar to the Structured English Immersion programs, such as gifted programs, are legislated in the same manner. Task Force members responded that the SEI program is a new type of legislated program. Ms. Joanna Haver urged flexibility in the models and stated that schools need guidelines to assist them. Members of the Task Force indicated that the models need to address an array of district and school configurations, from schools with few ELL students to schools with large ELL populations. The Task Force discussed that the models also need to take into account the level of schooling ELL students may have had prior to coming to Arizona. Several resource materials were identified by Task Force members.

Task Force members decided to examine SEI program models currently in use by Arizona school districts and charter schools. Members specifically requested presentations by districts/schools that have: Native American students; low numbers of ELLs; high refugee populations; and, high rates of ELL students who become fluent English proficient, as indicated through assessment. In addition, members requested presentations from urban, rural, and border districts, and from charter schools. Mr. Maguire requested that Ms. Moreno arrange for school districts to present their SEI Program models to the ELL Task Force. Since the ELL Task Force had posted public notice of a meeting for Friday, September 22, 2006, the first SEI Program presentations will be scheduled for that date.

## **6. Call to the Public**

Mr. Alan Maguire made the call to the public. There were no public statements.

## **7. Adjournment of the Arizona ELL Task Force**

Mr. Alan Maguire, Chairman, adjourned the September 21, 2006 meeting at 12:10 p.m.

## **Arizona ELL Task Force**

Alan Maguire, Chairman  
October 11, 2006